

# Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff / Coroner Coroner's Bureau, 2901 Peralta Oaks Ct, Oakland, CA 94605 (510) 382-3000 / (510) 382-3033 (fax)

# Coroner Investigator's Report

CALL INFO	NAME OF DECEASED (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE) BUENO, Eric Steven					TENTATIVE ID UNIDENTIFIED CASE NUMBER 2014-03486			486			
	REPORTED BY REPORTED BY PI				NE NO. REPORTING AGENCY				REFERENCE NUMBER			
				(510) 667-364	0) 667-3646		Alameda County Sheriff's Office-ETS			14-021275		
		INVESTIGATOR CALL DATE A				CASE TYPE						
	Rafael Plasencia 12/6/2			12/6/2014 2	0:00	Removal (	Removal Case					
DECEDENT	DATE AND TIME OF DEATH			DATE OF BIRTH	AGE GENDER RACE MARITAL				VET?			
	12/6/2014 19:28		2/15/1968	46 Years	Male			Married				
	HGT	WGT	EYE COLOR	HAIR COLOR	OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER					
	71	175	Blue	Brown	UNK							
		minary nmary										
	LOCATION OF DEATH Santa Rita Jail Other											
	ADDRESS	(STREET,	CITY, STATE, ZIP)				COUNTY					
	5325 B	roder B	oulevard Dubl	in CA 94568	Alameda							
	Manner Suicide Death Certificate Signed By:											
E	Cause A	HAN	IGING					Inter	val Minutes			
DEATH	Cause B Interval											
	Cause C											
	Cause D Interval											
	Other Significant Conditions											
FICATION	LEGAL NEXT OF KIN				RELATIONSHIP			TELEPHONE NO.				
	NOTIFIED BY				METHOD		D	DATE AND TIME				
_	Anthony Gogna				Coroner/telephone		1	12/9/2014 9:00				
NOT	IDENTIFICATION METHOD Photograph				DATE AND TIME 12/6/2014 19:28							
_	LOCATION OF INCIDENT AT WORK											
INCIDENT	ADDRESS (	STREET, C	CITY, STATE, ZIP)			CC	COUNTY DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT					
	INVESTIGA	TING AGEN	NCY		INV A	INV AGENCY PHONE NUMBER OFFICER						
	Alameda County Sheriff's Office-ETS				(510) 667-4906 Rosario Lopez				-			
	FUNERAL H	OME				BODY RELEASED TO FUNERAL HOME ON						
DISP	Deer Creek Mortuary-Dublin					12/13/2014 13:00						
		y Partial A	autopsy Inspection	Record Review Ins	pection w/Specim	en EXAM BY						
	<b>✓</b>					Judy M	Judy Melinek					



# Alameda County Sheriff's Office Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff / Coroner Coroner's Bureau, 480 4th Street, Oakland, CA 94607-3829

(510) 268-7300 / (510) 268-7333 (fax)

### **Investigator Narrative**

Decedent:

**BUENO**, Eric Steven

Case Number:

2014-03486

Investigator:

Rafael Plasencia

#### **First Call Information:**

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, about 2000 hours, Alameda County Deputy Sheriff R. GARRIGAN called and reported the death of Eric Steven BUENO. Deputy GARRIGAN reported the following: BUENO was a 46-year-old male who died in his cell (Housing Unit 7, cell B-1) at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. About 1858 hours, Deputy G. RESENDES, who was assigned to Housing Unit 7, found BUENO suspended off the ground, hanging from his neck and ankles, by a long strip of bed sheet that was tied around the top bunk of his cell. Deputy RESENDES cut BUENO down and requested medical assistance. Corizon Nurses responded to the scene and initiated CPR. ALCO Fire arrived shortly after and determined death at 1928 hours due to no detectable heart rhythm. BUENO did not have a cell mate and was alone in his cell. BUENO was last seen alive earlier in the day about 1545 hours when Housing Unit 7 served dinner. (RRP1868)

### **Medical Summary:**

According to Corizon Health Care, BUENO had no known medical history and no County Jail Mental Health (CJMH) history. The only medication BUENO was taking was (RRP1868)

### Description of the Death/Injury Scene:

BUENO died in his cell (Housing Unit 7, cell B-1), at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. (RRP1868)

### **Body Identification:**

BUENO was originally identified by the Alameda County issued identification wrist band that he wore. I (PLASENCIA) also located photographs of him and identification information from CRIMS and Cal Photo which was used to identify BUENO by his likeness to the photographs. (RRP1868)

On December 12, 2014, I (HORN) received a document from the Central Identification Bureau (CIB) via QIC code that confirmed fingerprints submitted for the decedent matched those on file for PFN: associated with Eric Steven BUENO. The document was placed in the case file. (JDH1724)

### **Next of Kin Investigation:**

The two page suicide note recovered from BUENO's cell desk listed three possible family members along with contact telephone numbers. The note read:



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As of 12/7/2014, about 0324 hours, NOK/family had not been notified. (RRP1868)

On December 9, 2014, about 0800 hours. I (GOGNA) spoke with Eric's father	and notified
him of the death. According to him, was divorced and had no children. Based on this is	nformation,
would be his legal next of kin. (AG#1303)	

### **Other Agency Reports:**

Refer to Alameda County Sheriff's Office report #14-021275. (RRP1868)

On April 10, 2015, I (PLASENCIA) printed a copy of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office report #14-021275. I reviewed the report and its contents were consistent with my findings. A copy of the report was placed into the case file. (RRP1868)

### **Property and Evidence:**

I (PLASENCIA) issued property receipt #35337 for the body, clothing, and property items in this case to Alameda County Sheriff's Office Sgt. BASILIO. (RRP1868)

On December 17, 2014, all property associated with this case was released to the next of kin (RRP1868)

### **Coroners Fees:**

The following Coroner's Fees apply in this case: Body removal (\$254) and body preparation (\$67) for a total of \$321.00. (RRP1868)

As of December 23, 2014, all associated fees with this case were paid in full. See accounting receipt #05871. (RRP1868)

### Other Investigative Details/ Supplemental Information:

On December 6, 2014 about 2143 hours, Deputy WILLIAMS and I (PLASENCIA) arrived at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. BUENO was lying face up on the floor of his cell, Housing Unit 7, cell B-1. He was wearing Alameda County Jail issue clothing and the top was partially cut off exposing his upper torso. There was medical therapy attached to BUENO'S body and everything was left in place. I examined his body and saw very distinct ligature marks along with small traces of blue bed sheet around his neck. He also had strips of blue bed sheet tied around his ankles as well.



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Deputy WILLIAMS and I moved BUENO onto a gurney and into the Coroner's van for transportation back to the Coroner's Bureau without incident.

On December 7, 2014, about 0010 hours, we returned to the Coroner's Bureau and processed BUENO's body into the morgue and took intake photographs. (RRP1868)

On December 10, 2010, Coroner's Pathologist Dr. Judy MELINEK conducted a full autopsy on Eric BUENO. The cause of death was listed as "Hanging". (RRP1868)

On December 22, 2014, Central Valley Toxicology (CVT) conducted a complete drug screen on a peripheral blood sample from Eric BUENO. The complete drug screen yielded the following results: Methamphetamine was detected. No other common acidic, neutral or basic drugs were detected and no Ethyl Alcohol was detected. (RRP1868)

On December 13, 2014, Jesse MARQUEZ from Deer Creek Mortuary in Dublin arrived at the Coroner's Bureau to take custody of Eric BUENO for final disposition. (RRP1868)

### Findings:

On Friday, April 10, 2015, I (PLASENCIA) reviewed this case to determine a manner of death. A full autopsy was performed by Coroner's Pathologist Dr. Judy MELINEK on Eric Steven BUENO to determine a cause of death. Dr. MELINEK listed the cause of death as "Hanging". Based on the listed cause of death, my death scene investigation, and evidence recovered from the scene, I determine the manner of death for this case to be a suicide. (RRP1868)

### **Supervisor Review:**

On Monday, April 13, 2015, I (Lt. Bowers) reviewed this report for closure. I concur with the content and findings. I consider this case closed. (rmb#906)

# Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Coroner's Bureau 480 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, CA 94607-3829

# Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff

Director of Emergency Services Coroner - Marshal

### MEMORANDUM

DATE:

December 10, 2014

FROM:

Judy Melinek, M.D.

TO:

Case File 2014-03486

SUBJECT:

AUTOPSY PROTOCOL

Autopsy performed upon the body of Eric Steven Bueno at the Coroner's Bureau, 480 4th Street, Oakland, California, on December 10, 2014, at 9:25 a.m.

### AUTOPSY FINDINGS

### I. HANGING:

- A. LIGATURE FURROW COMPLETELY ENCIRCLES NECK, ELEVATES TOWARDS RIGHT
- B. FACIAL PALLOR
- C. LIGATURE SUBMITTED AS EVIDENCE.
- II. HYPERTENSIVE CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE:
  - A. 460 GRAM HEART WITH BIVENTRICULAR HYPERTROPHY.
- III. LEFT TESTICULAR FIBROSIS.
  - IV. ACUTE METHAMPHETAMINE INTOXICATION (SEE TOXICOLOGY REPORT):
    - A. D-METHAMPHETAMINE = 0.11 MG/L
    - B. D-AMPHETAMINE = NEGATIVE.

CAUSE OF DEATH: HANGING.

cc: EMS

Investigations Bureau



21

22

## Body of ERIC STEVEN BUENO

1	PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION: The body is identified by a Coroner's
2	label affixed to the right great toe, and a jail label
3	encircling the right wrist. Brown paper bags encircle the
4	hands. When first viewed, the decedent is clad in an orange t-
5	shirt (cut); yellow jail-issued pants; brown boxer underpants;
6	and two gray socks. Torn blue cloth accompanies the body and is
7	described below. Blue cloth restraints/ligatures encircle both
8	ankles twice, are both knotted twice with granny knots (tighter
9	on the left). On the left there is a 33 inch length of fabric
10	extending to a double knot with two loose ends, a 9 inch long
11	one and an 11 inch long one. There is an additional 11 inch
12	loose end emanating from the knot at the outer left ankle. At
1.3	the right ankle there is a double knot with two loose ends, one
14	measuring 8 inches and the other measuring 6 inches. The
15	clothing and accompanying blue cloth are submitted as evidence.
16	
17	EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: The body is of a well developed, well
18	nourished, fit and muscular adult Caucasian man whose appearance
19	is consistent with the reported age of 46 years. The body is
20	cold (refrigerated). Rigor mortis is marked and symmetric.

Fixed red livor mortis extends over the posterior surfaces of

the body, except in areas exposed to pressure. There are early

## Body of ERIC STEVEN BUENO

- 23 putrefactive changes manifested by a slight green discoloration
- 24 over the abdomen.

25

- 26 The face is unremarkable without visible injury. The head is
- 27 atraumatic, symmetric, and normocephalic. The scalp is intact
- 28 and atraumatic. The scalp hair is reddish gray and straight,
- 29 and measures approximately 1/8 inch in length over the crown.
- 30 The eyelids are atraumatic, intact, and unremarkable. The
- 31 irides are blue. The pupils are bilaterally equal at 0.3 cm.
- 32 The corneas are translucent. The sclerae and conjunctivae are
- 33 pale and unremarkable without petechiae or hemorrhages. No
- 34 petechial hemorrhages are identified on the palpebral
- 35 conjunctivae, bulbar conjunctivae, facial skin or oral mucosa.
- 36 The nose and ears are not unusual except for two pierce marks in
- 37 the left earlobe. The decedent wears a 1/8 inch grayish red
- 38 mustache and beard. The teeth are natural and in good
- 39 condition.

40

- 41 The neck is remarkable for evidence of injury, as mentioned
- 42 below. The trachea is palpable and midline. The thorax is well
- 43 developed and symmetrical. The abdomen is flat. The anus and
- 44 back are unremarkable. The penis is circumcised. The testes

# Body of ERIC STEVEN BUENO

45 are bilaterally descended in the scrotum. The breasts are well
46 developed, without palpable masses. The genitalia are those of
47 a normal adult female. The upper and lower extremities are well
48 developed and symmetrical, without absence of digits. There is
49 no clubbing or edema.

50

51 EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL THERAPY: Evidence of acute medical therapy
52 includes four electrocardiogram patches on the shoulders and
53 abdomen and defibrillator patches on the chest.

54

A monochromatic professional AND SCARS: IDENTIFYING MARKS 55 tattoo inscribed "Forever and a day" is on the upper chest below 56 both clavicles. A polychromatic professional tattoo inscribed 57 "XXX AKA Gidget" is on the upper left chest. A monochromatic 58 professional tattoo of four Chinese letters is at the upper 59 outer left chest near the axilla. A monochromatic professional 60 tattoo depicting a demon is on the lower outer left chest. A 61 monochromatic professional tattoo depicting a panther head is on 62 the upper right chest. A polychromatic professional tattoo 63 depicting the letter "A" within a circle is on the left abdomen. 64 monochromatic professional tattoo of a cross inscribed 65 "Tiffany Adrianne" is on the outer right abdomen and flank. 66

monochromatic professional tattoo inscribed "BUENO" is on the 67 A monochromatic base of the neck. 68 upper back, at the professional tattoo inscribed "NOR \* CAL Peckerwood" is on the 69 A monochromatic professional lower back above the buttocks. 70 tattoo depicting a female warrior figure is on the upper outer 71 right arm and is above a tattoo depicting either barbed wire or 72 a flame motif encircling the upper right arm. A monochromatic 73 professional tattoo depicting a demon is on the upper outer left 74 A monochromatic professional tattoo inscribed "Tiffany" 75 over a key is at the volar left wrist. A sleeve-like tattoo 76 extends from the left thigh to the ankle on both the front and 77 back of the left leg and depicts numerous demons and skulls. 78 monochromatic professional tattoo of a graphic design is on the 79 outer right calf. A monochromatic professional tattoo encircles 80 the mid-right calf and is inscribed "Kathy \* Ron \* Dustin \* 81 There are irregular hyperpigmented well healed scars 82 ranging in size from 1/4 to 2-1/2 inches at the lower right leg 83 Three 1/4 inch scars have a central scab measuring and shin. 84 1/4 inch and 1/8 inch on the upper and lower outer right knee, 85 Additional identifying marks and scars are not respectively. 86 readily identified. 87

# Body of ERIC STEVEN BUENO

## 89 EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

- 90 HANGING: A ligature furrow completely surrounds the neck. It
- 91 ranges from 3/8 to 1/2 inch wide. At the front of the neck it
- 92 goes horizontally but elevates slightly behind the right ear.
- 93 At the front and left the furrow is most prominently dry,
- 94 leathery and tan. It is positioned approximately 1 inch below
- 95 the right lobule and 2-1/4 inches below the left lobule.

96

- 97 Accompanying the body are blue cloths which match in appearance
- 98 to the restraints/ligatures surrounding the ankles. One is 27
- 99 inches in length and has been cut at both ends. The other has a
- 100 complex knot with three loose ends each measuring 13 inches.

101

- 102 Internally, there are no fractures of the hyoid, thyroid,
- 103 cricoid cartilages or vertebrae without hemorrhage into the soft
- 104 tissue. There are no petechial hemorrhages of the face,
- 105 sclerae, conjunctivae, larynx, oropharynx, or nasopharynx.
- 106 There is relative facial pallor. The tongue does not protrude
- 107 and on cut section there are no hemorrhages in the muscle.

108

The ligatures are labeled and submitted into evidence with the cloth encircling the ankles which have been cut and reapproximated to reproduce the loops surrounding the ankles.

112

- 113 OTHER INJURIES: An 8 inch by 3 inch aggregate of parallel
- 114 linear red abrasions (scratch marks) some of which appear fresh
- 115 and some of which are scabbed are on the upper back. These are
- 116 oriented diagonally.

117

- 118 The injuries above, having been described once, will not be
- 119 repeated.

120

- 121 INTERNAL EXAMINATION: The body is opened in the usual manner
- 122 with a Y-shaped incision. No adhesions or abnormal collections
- 123 of fluid are in any of the body cavities. All body organs are
- 124 in normal and anatomic position. The serous surfaces are smooth
- 125 and glistening. The subcutaneous fat measures approximately
- 1/2-inch in maximum thickness at the level of the umbilicus.

127

- 128 HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: Reflection of the scalp shows
- 129 the usual scattered reflection petechiae. The calvarium is
- 130 intact. The brain weighs 1500 grams. The dura mater and falx

# Body of ERIC STEVEN BUENO

cerebri are unremarkable and the leptomeninges are thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and blood vessels, are free of abnormality.

135

136 Sections through the cerebral hemispheres reveal no lesions
137 within the cortex, subcortical white matter or deep parenchyma
138 of either hemisphere. The cerebral ventricles are of normal
139 caliber. Sections through the brain stem and cerebellum are
140 unremarkable. The first portion of the spinal cord, viewed
141 through the foramen magnum, is unremarkable.

142

The neck is dissected after the thoracoabdominal and NECK: 143 cranial contents are removed. Examination of the soft tissues 144 of the neck, including large vessels and strap muscles, reveals 145 no abnormalities. The superficial and deep muscles of the neck 146 are firm, red-brown, intact, and unremarkable without hemorrhage 147 or laceration. The hyoid bone and larynx are intact. The 148 tongue is normal. 149

150

151 CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The heart weighs 460 grams. The 152 epicardial surfaces are smooth, glistening, and unremarkable.

153	The coronary arteries arise normally and follow the distribution
154	of a right dominant pattern with no atherosclerosis. The
155	chambers demonstrate biventricular hypertrophy and valves bear
156	the usual size/position relationship, are morphologically normal
157	and are unremarkable. The valves are free of vegetations. The
158	myocardium is dark red-brown, firm, and unremarkable. The
159	atrial and ventricular septa are intact and the septum and free
160	walls are free of muscular bulges. There is no focal or
161	regional fibrosis, erythema, pallor or softening. The left
162	ventricle measures 1.5 cm and the right ventricle measures
163	0.5 cm in thickness as measured 1 cm below the respective
164	atrioventricular valve annulus. The interventricular septum
165	measures 1.1 cm in thickness. The aorta and its major branches
166	arise normally and follow the usual course with no significant
167	atherosclerosis. The orifices of the major aortic vascular
168	branches are patent. The vena cava and its major tributaries
169	return to the heart in the usual distribution and are
170	unremarkable.

171

172 RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The right and left lungs weigh 560 and 530 grams, respectively. The upper and lower airways are patent and the mucosal surfaces are smooth, yellow-tan, and unremarkable.

The pleural surfaces are smooth, glistening, and unremarkable.

The pulmonary parenchyma is red and the cut surfaces exude

moderate amounts of blood and frothy fluid. There are no

masses, hemorrhages, consolidations, obstructions or destructive

emphysema. The pulmonary arteries are normally developed and

patent. There is no saddle embolus on in situ examination of

the pulmonary trunk.

182

HEPATOBILIARY SYSTEM: The liver weighs 1950 grams. The hepatic capsule is intact, smooth and glistening, covering red-brown parenchyma. The gallbladder contains approximately 10 mL of green viscid bile without stones. The extrahepatic biliary tree appears to be patent.

188

HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM: The spleen weighs 110 grams and has a smooth intact capsule covering red-purple, moderately firm parenchyma. The splenic white pulp is grossly unremarkable.

The regional lymph nodes appear normal. The bone marrow (rib) is red-purple.

194

195 ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The pituitary gland is intact, normally developed, and is unremarkable without laceration, hemorrhage,

or mass lesion. The thyroid gland is symmetric and unremarkable with a firm, red-brown, granular parenchyma and no cyst, hemorrhage, fibrosis, or mass lesion. The adrenal glands are normally situated and have soft, yellow cortices and soft, gray-brown medullae. The pancreas has a soft, tan parenchyma with a normal lobular architecture and no saponification, pseudocyst, neoplasm, fibrosis, hemorrhage, or mineralization.

204

The esophagus is lined by gray-white, 205 GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The gastric mucosa is arranged in the usual 206 smooth mucosa. rugal folds, and the lumen contains approximately 550 mL of 207 light brown fluid with partially digested vegetable material. 208 There are no pill fragments or foreign bodies identified. 209 The appendix is small and large bowels are unremarkable. 210 The colon contains soft and green stool. 211 unremarkable.

212

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys weigh 150 and 213 170 grams, respectively. The renal capsules are smooth, thin, 214 and strip with ease from the underlying, 215 semitransparent, smooth, red-brown, firm, cortical surfaces. The cortices are of 216 well-delineated from the medullary and 217 normal thickness The calyces, pelves, and ureters are unremarkable. 218 pyramids.

239

240

# Body of ERIC STEVEN BUENO

The urinary bladder contains approximately 25 mL of urine. The 219 testis is right The smooth. gray-tan and is 220 mucosa unremarkable. The left testis is firm, pale and fibrotic. The 221 prostate is unremarkable. 222 223 The skeleton is well developed and MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: 224 without deformity or osteoporosis. The vertebrae, clavicles, 225 sternum, ribs, and pelvis are without fracture. The supporting 226 musculature and soft tissues are not unusual. The firm, red-227 brown muscles are well hydrated and free of focal lesions. The 228 cervical spinal column is stable on internal palpation. 229 230 Portions of all major organs are fixed in Spec. to Pathology: 231 formalin and retained. 232 233 Spec. to Histology: None. 234 235 Peripheral and heart blood, bile, brain, Spec. to Toxicology: 236 gastric contents, liver, urine, vitreous 237 humor. 238

Physician(s) Present: Dr. Judy Melinek.

# Body of ERIC STEVEN BUENO

242 Forensic Techs: Herminia Gutierrez and Kristena Realph.

243

244 Evidence: Blood spot on filter paper for DNA.

245

246

247

248

249

250 JM/jkm



**Case Name:** 

TOXICOLOGY NUMBER: CVT-14-14604

Bueno,

Eric

S.

30 ml peripheral blood labeled "Bueno, Eric; 2014-03486; 12/10/2014"

**Specimen Description:** 

Delivered by Tricor **Date** 11-Dec-14 Received by Bill Posey **Date** 11-Dec-14

Request: Complete Drug Screen

**Agency Case #** 2014-03486

Requesting Agency

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office

Attn: Acct's Payable

480 4th Street

Oakland CA 94607

Report To

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office

Attn: Dr. Melinek 480 4th Street

Oakland CA 94607

Specimen: Peripheral Blood Sample

**RESULTS** 

Complete Drug Screen: Methamphetamine detected.

No other common acidic, neutral or basic drugs detected.

No Ethyl Alcohol detected.

d-Methamphetamine = 0.11 mg/L

d-Amphetamine

= Negative

**Blood Amphetamine Ranges** 

Effective Level: (0.02 - 0.15 mg/L)

Potentially Toxic:

(0.2 mg/L)

1/7/17

Blood Methamphetamine Ranges (0.01 - 0.05 mg/L)

Effective Level:

Potentially Toxic:

(0.2 - 5 mg/L)

B.L. POSEY S.N. KIMBLE

1580 Tollhouse Road Clovis, California 93611 Phone (559) 323-9940 Fax (559) 323-7502

December 22, 2014